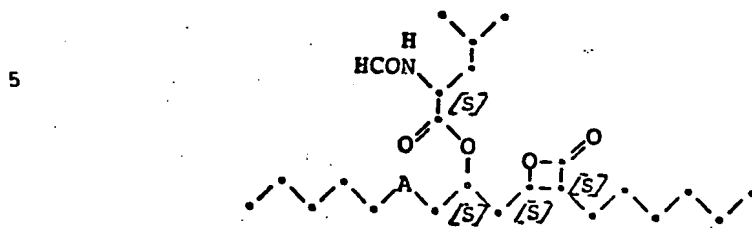
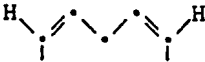


Claims

1. A compound of the formula



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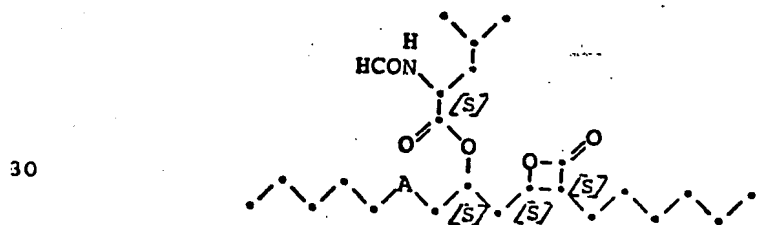
wherein A is the group  or $-(CH_2)_5-$.

2. The compound of claim 1, (2S,3S,5S,7Z,10Z)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-7,10-hexadecadienoic acid lactone.


3. The compound of claim 1, (2S,3S,5S)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-hexadecanoic acid lactone.

4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising

a) about 5% to about 95% of a compound of formula



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wherein A is the group  or $-(CH_2)_5-$; and

b) 5% to 95% of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier material, said composition being formulated in a unit dosage form.

5. The composition of claim 4 wherein said composition is formulated in an oral unit dosage form.

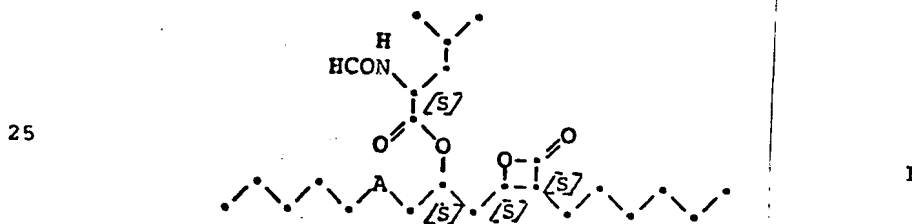
6. The composition of claim 5 wherein said oral unit dosage form is a tablet, dragee, capsule, solution, emulsion or suspension.

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7. The composition of claim 4 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S, 5S, 7Z, 10Z)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-7,10-hexadecadienoic acid lactone.

15 8. The composition of claim 4 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S, 5S)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-hexadecanoic acid lactone.

9. A method of treating obesity in an afflicted mammal comprising administering to the mammal a compound of the formula



30 wherein A is the group or $-(CH_2)_5-$

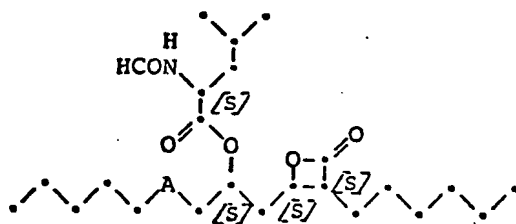
in an amount which is effective in treating obesity.

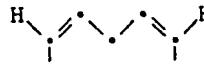
35 10. The method of claim 9 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S, 5S, 7Z, 10Z)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-7,10-hexadecadienoic acid lactone.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S,5S)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-hexadecanoic acid lactone.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein compound I is administered in a daily dose of about 0.1 mg to 100 mg/kg body weight of the mammal.

13. A method of treating hyperlipaemia in an afflicted mammal comprising administering to the mammal a compound of the formula



wherein A is the group  or $-(CH_2)_5-$,

in an amount which is effective in treating hyperlipaemia.

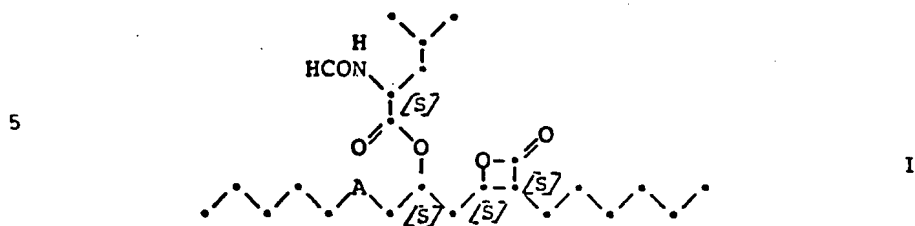
14. The method of claim 13 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S,5S,7Z,10Z)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-7,10-hexadecadienoic acid lactone.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S,5S)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-hexadecanoic acid lactone.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein compound I is administered in a daily dose of about 0.1 mg to 100 mg/kg body weight of the mammal.

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17. A method of preventing obesity in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a compound of the formula



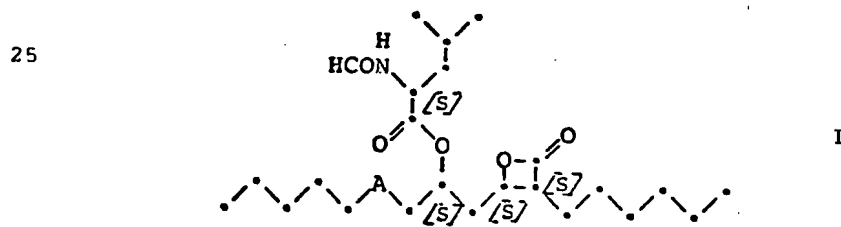
10 wherein A is the group or $-(CH_2)_5-$ in an amount which is effective in preventing obesity.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S, 5S, 7Z, 10Z)-5-[(S)-2-Formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-7,10-hexadecadienoic acid lactone.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S, 5S)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-hexadecanoic acid lactone.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein compound I is administered in a daily dose of about 0.1 mg to 100 mg/kg body weight of the mammal.

21. A commercially-produced foodstuff comprising a compound of the formula



30 wherein A is the group or $-(CH_2)_5-$ admixed with a material suitable for consumption.

35 22. The foodstuff of claim 20 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S, 5S, 7Z, 10Z)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-7,10-hexadecadienoic acid lactone.

23. The foodstuff of claim 20 wherein compound I is (2S, 3S,5S)-5-[(S)-2-formamido-4-methyl-valeryloxy]-2-hexyl-3-hydroxy-hexadecanoic acid lactone.

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